

Remarks

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application in the Office Action dated August 2, 2005. Claims 60, 63, 65-69, 74, 78-79, 87, 88, 91-94, 188, 206, 225, 226 and 228 stand rejected. Claims 225, 226 and 228 are withdrawn from consideration. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 188 and 206 are canceled and claims 60, 63, 65-69, 74, 78-79, 87, 88, and 91-94 are pending. Applicants address concerns presented in the Office Action in the comments below.

I. Amended Claims

Claims 60, 63, 65-69, 74, 78-79, 87, 88, 91-94, 188 and 206 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 188 and 206 have been canceled. Any basis for rejection for the remaining pending claims has been obviated with the present amendment.

II. Title

The title has been amended to more clearly reflect the invention now recited in the pending claims.

III. Abstract

The Abstract has been replaced by a new Abstract provided herewith as well as on a separate sheet.

IV. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement has been filed herewith under 1.97(c)(2) and is accompanied by the fee set forth in §1.17(p) of \$180.00. It is respectfully requested that the disclosed references be made of record in the above-identified application and that they be given careful consideration.

V. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments overcome and/or obviate any basis for

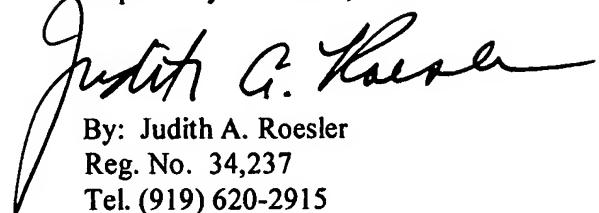
Serial No.: 10/663,449

Amendment

Page 9 of 9

rejecting the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith A. Roesler".

By: Judith A. Roesler
Reg. No. 34,237
Tel. (919) 620-2915

December 30, 2005
Customer No. 35467
bioMerieux, Inc.
100 Rodolphe Street
Durham, NC 27712